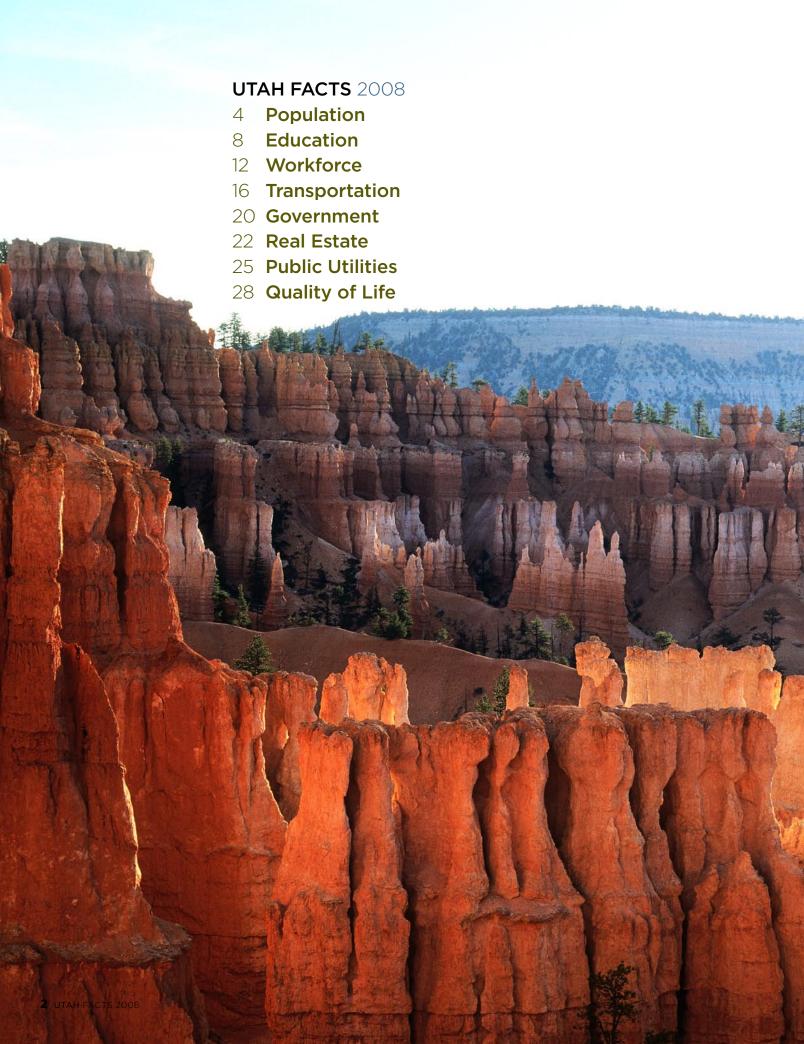
# EAS 2008

## SPECIAL REPORT

Population
Education
Workforce
Transportation
Government
Real Estate
Public Utilities
Quality of Life









Friend of Economic Development:

Utah is often praised in the media as a great place to live and work; this publication will give you a better idea of why the accolades continue. Whether you enjoy the snow-capped mountains or the red sandstone deserts, the Utah landscape is filled with variety. The state's business landscape is just as diverse; Utah leads the world in high-tech, bio-medical, outdoor products, and recreation, with a broad array of industries in between.

As you read this 2008 issue of Business Utah, the official economic development publication of the State of Utah, I am confident that you will discover what almost 3 million Utah residents already know: this is an unparalleled place to build a business and live life to its fullest.

We invite you to explore the many facets of the nation's most dynamic economy; a place where the State works hard to nurture an environment where businesses can flourish. Utah's extraordinary growth has been driven by a vibrant and creative business community. A productive workforce, low taxes and highly innovative research universities all combine with a business-friendly government to support economic growth. The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development is collaborating with business and thought leaders to strengthen our broad economic base. We are building on success and we invite you to join us in the endeavor.



## **POPULATION**

## UTAH'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW STEADILY AND RAPIDLY.

According to the Utah Population Estimates Committee, Utah's official 2006 population estimate was 2,615,129, the largest population in the state's history, and a 2.7 percent increase from 2005—the sixth fastest growth rate in the U.S. In 2005, the state grew at a record pace of 3.2 percent. The 2006 estimated population increase of 67,740 was the second greatest in the state's history, trailing only the 2005 increase of 78,159.

The state's population growth is a result of substantial net imigration (emigration subtracted from immigration), combined with the nation's highest birth rate (21.2 births per 1,000 citizens) and the second lowest death rate (5.6 per 1,000), according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Net migration was about 40,000 people in 2005, followed by 28,730 in 2006, according to the 2007 Economic Report to the Governor. 2006 marked Utah's 16th consecutive year of net immigration, which has been driven in large part by Utah's current sustained economic expansion. An all-time record 52,368 children were born in Utah in 2006.



## HIGHLIGHTS

■ Median Age

■ Birth Rate

Death Rate

Household Size

28.5 years

21.2 births/1,000 population

5.6 deaths/1,000 population

3.07 persons/household

Youngest in U.S.

Highest in U.S.

Second lowest in U.S.

Largest in U.S.

■ 75.49 percent of Utah's populace lives in Salt Lake, Utah, Davis and Weber Counties

**Utah's birth rate of 21.2 per 1,000 residents is the nation's highest**, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Utah also leads the nation with a fertility rate of 2.54 (average number of children expected to be born to a woman during her lifetime) and average household size (3.07).

The U.S. Census Bureau currently projects that Utah's population will reach 5.4 million by 2050. With a median age of 28.5, Utah has the youngest population in the U.S. The state had the largest average household size in the nation, at 3.07 (compared with the national average of 2.6), and also ranked first in fertility rate—the average number of children per potential child-bearing woman—at 2.54.

Although the state's population remains predominantly Caucasian, Utah is growing increasingly ethnically diverse. The state's Hispanic proportion of the population grew to approximately 11 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, with steady growth also occurring among Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans/Indians.

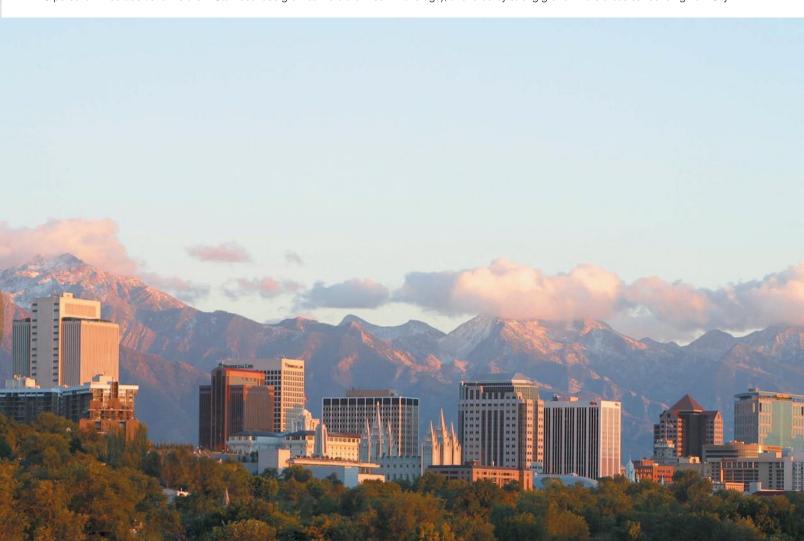
### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

The state's population boom is being driven by counties in both southern and northern Utah. Rapidly growing Washington County in southwestern Utah boasted a 6.1 percent population growth. Wasatch County, in the north-central part of the state, grew by 5.3 percent. Iron County, in southern Utah, grew 4.9 percent. Three additional northern Utah counties grew at more than four

times the national average of 1.0 percent: Morgan County, at 4.4 percent; Tooele County, 4.3 percent; and Utah County, 4.2 percent.

Utah is home to 29 diverse counties, but the state's population is primarily concentrated in urban areas, clustered in four counties – Salt Lake, Utah, Davis and Weber—within a relatively narrow strip of land along the Wasatch Front in the north-central part of the state. As of 2006, more than 1.974 million residents lived in one of these four counties—more than 75 percent of the state's overall population. Salt Lake County is the state's largest population center, with 996,374 residents, followed by Utah County (475,425); Davis County (286,547); and Weber County (215,870).

The counties with the largest recent growth rates are led by Washington County (48.1 percent growth from 2000 to 2006; 6.8 percent annual average growth from 2000 to 2006), led by booming St. George and surrounding communities; Wasatch County (36.4 percent 2000-2006; 5.3 percent average 2000-2006); Tooele County (30.9 percent 2000-2006; 4.6 percent average); Utah County (27.8 percent 2000-2006; 4.2 percent average), led by the rapidly growing north end; and Summit County (22.7 percent 2000-2006; 3.8 percent average), anchored by strong growth in the areas surrounding Park City.



## **UTAH POPULATION ESTIMATES BY COUNTY**

		2000-2006	2000-2006		2006
	CENSUS	ABSOLUTE	PERCENT		PERCENT OF
COUNTY	2000	CHANGE	CHANGE	AARC	TOTAL POPULATION
Beaver	6,005	405	6.7%	1.1%	0.25%
Box Elder	42,745	3,127	7.3%	1.2%	1.76%
Cache	91,391	13,774	15.0%	2.4%	4.04%
Carbon	20,422	-892	-4.4%	-0.7%	0.75%
Daggett	921	16	1.7%	0.3%	0.04%
Davis	238,994	46,343	19.3%	3.0%	10.96%
Duchesne	14,371	1,188	8.3%	1.3%	0.60%
Emery	10,860	-344	-3.2%	-0.5%	0.40%
Garfield	4,735	9	0.2%	0.0%	0.18%
Grand	8,485	487	5.7%	0.9%	0.35%
Iron	33,779	9,345	27.4%	4.1%	1.66%
Juab	8,238	1,005	12.1%	1.9%	0.36%
Kane	6,046	257	4.3%	0.7%	0.24%
Millard	12,405	769	6.2%	1.0%	0.51%
Morgan	7,129	1,707	23.8%	3.6%	0.34%
Piute	1,435	-63	-4.4%	-0.7%	0.05%
Rich	1,961	166	8.5%	1.4%	0.08%
Salt Lake	898,387	93,597	10.4%	1.7%	38.10%
San Juan	14,413	287	2.0%	0.3%	0.56%
Sanpete	22,763	2,953	12.9%	2.0%	0.99%
Sevier	18,842	1,046	5.5%	0.9%	0.76%
Summit	29,736	6,823	22.7%	3.5%	1.41%
Tooele	40,735	12,826	30.9%	4.6%	2.08%
Uintah	25,224	2,450	9.7%	1.6%	1.06%
Utah	368,536	103,531	27.8%	4.2%	18.18%
Wasatch	15,215	5,620	36.4%	5.3%	0.81%
Washington	90,354	43,795	48.1%	6.8%	5.16%
Wayne	2,509	20	0.8%	0.1%	0.10%
Weber	196,533	18,329	9.3%	1.5%	8.25%
MCD					
Bear River	136,097	17,067	12.5%	2.0%	5.92%
Central	66,192	5,730	8.6%	1.4%	2.79%
Mountainland	413,487	115,974	27.8%	4.2%	20.11%
Southeastern	54,180	-462	-0.9%	-0.1%	2.09%
Southwestern	140,919	53,811	37.9%	5.5%	7.29%
Uintah Basin	40,516	3,654	9.0%	1.4%	1.69%
Wasatch Front	1,381,778	172,802	12.4%	2.0%	60.10%
State of Utah	2,233,169	368,576	16.4%	2.6%	100.00%

2007 Economic Report to the Governor Table 16: Utah Population Estimates by County

Roughly **76 percent** of Utah's populace lives in Salt Lake, Utah, Davis and Weber Counties.

## **U.S. CENSUS BUREAU CITY POPULATION COUNTS: 2004 AND 2005 POPULATION ESTIMATES**

	CENSUS		CHANGE	AARC CHANGE
CITY	2004	2005	04-05	00-05
Salt Lake City	178,487	178,097	-0.2%	-0.4%
Provo **	111,718	113,459	1.6%	1.5%
West Valley City **	112,607	113,300	0.6%	0.8%
West Jordan	88,955	91,444	2.8%	6.0%
Orem	88,618	89,713	1.2%	1.2%
Sandy **	89,906	89,664	-0.3%	0.3%
Ogden	78,429	78,309	-0.2%	0.3%
St. George	60,077	64,201	6.9%	5.3%
Layton	61,236	61,782	0.9%	1.1%
Taylorsville	58,142	58,009	-0.2%	0.2%
Logan	45,795	47,357	3.4%	2.1%
Murray	44,621	44,555	-0.1%	5.5%
Bountiful	41,196	41,085	-0.3%	-0.1%
South Jordan	36,791	40,209	9.3%	6.4%
Roy	35,235	35,229	0.0%	1.4%
Draper (pt.)	32,201	34,133	6.0%	6.2%
Riverton	30,100	32,089	6.6%	5.1%
Lehi	27,633	31,730	14.8%	10.8%
Pleasant Grove	27,116	29,376	8.3%	4.6%
Tooele	27,936	28,369	1.5%	4.7%
Clearfield	27,242	27,413	0.6%	1.1%
Midvale	27,003	27,170	0.6%	0.1%
Spanish Fork	25,528	26,606	4.2%	5.6%
Springville	24,448	25,309	3.5%	4.4%
Cedar City	22,345	23,983	7.3%	3.2%
Kaysville	21,762	22,510	3.4%	2.0%
South Salt Lake	21,498	21,411	-0.4%	-0.6%
American Fork **	25,024	21,372	-14.6%	-0.5%
Holladay *	19,299	19,319	0.1%	5.8%
Brigham City	18,279	18,355	0.4%	1.1%
Syracuse	16,386	17,938	9.5%	13.8%
Clinton	16,457	17,735	7.8%	7.1%
North Ogden	16,303	16,542	1.5%	1.9%
Payson	15,990	16,442	2.8%	5.3%
South Ogden	15,107	15,195	0.6%	1.1%
Centerville	14,678	14,898	1.5%	0.4%
Farmington	13,890	14,357	3.4%	3.5%
Washington	11,573	13,669	18.1%	10.8%
Highland	12,331	13,350	8.3%	10.3%
Herriman town	8,450	11,226	32.9%	49.1%
Hurricane	9,793	10,989	12.2%	5.9%
North Salt Lake	9,560	10,538	10.2%	3.8%
Eagle Mountain	8,760	10,343	18.1%	36.8%



Source: 2007 Economic Report to the Governor, Table 24: U.S. Census Bureau City Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005



The St. George metropolitan area, in Washington County. is the nation's fastest-growing, with a 39.8 percent population increase from 2000-2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

## **UTAH CITIES**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Salt Lake City is Utah's largest city, with a population of 178,097 in 2005, followed by Provo, with 113,459; West Valley, 113,300; West Jordan, 91,444; Orem, 89,713; Sandy, 89,664; and Ogden, 78,309.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington County in southwestern Utah is currently the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan area (urban population of more than 50,000), with a six-year growth rate of 40 percent. Two Utah micropolitan areas (population from 10,000-50,000) were also ranked in the top 10 nationally for population growth: Heber (Wasatch County) is the nation's third fastest growing micro area with 33 percent growth; Cedar City (Iron County) ranked 9th, with 20 percent growth.

There are 43 cities in Utah that had 10,000 or more residents in 2005, up from 39 in 2004 - including 13 cities in Salt Lake County, 10 in Utah County, nine in Davis County, and four in Weber County.

The Utah 10,000-plus population cities with the highest growth rates from 2000-2005 include Herriman (49.1 percent), Eagle Mountain (36.8), Syracuse (13.8), Lehi (10.8), Washington (10.8) and Highland (10.3). Within the next few years, several significant planned development projects are expected to add substantially to the populations of southern Salt Lake County and northern Utah County, as well as Summit and Washington Counties.

For detailed population and demographic information, please contact the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, State Capitol Complex, Suite E210, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2210; phone (801) 538-1027.

2007 Economic Report to the Governor, pp. 15-27
http://www.governor.utah.gov/dea/ERG2007.html
Governor's Office of Planning & Budget, State Capitol Complex, Suite E210, SLC, UT 801-538-1027:

State Pop Estimates: http://www.governor.utah.gov/dea/UPEC/06StatePop.pdf
State & County Pop. Estimates: http://www.governor.utah.gov/dea/UPEC/06PopbyCounty.pdf

## **EDUCATION**



**UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY BILL SIGNING** 

UTAH'S EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS have developed practical and innovative approaches to educating the state's continually growing workforce. The state's dedicated teachers and administrators and its quality school systems provide a wealth of educational opportunities, extending all the way from kindergarten through higher education. Utah consistently ranks among the nation's leading states for the percentage of its population 25 years and older who have completed high school: In 2006, the state ranked second in the nation, at 92.5 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Davis County was cited as the school district with the highest graduation rate of any school district in the country. At 29.8 percent. Utah ranked 16th in the percentage of residents who hold a four-year college degree.

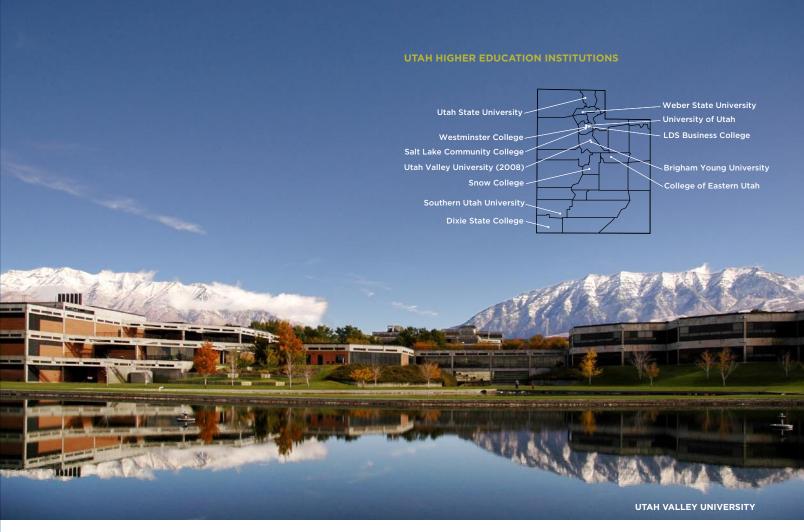
## **K-12 EDUCATION**

Utah's network of public and private K-12 schools offers high quality primary and secondary education to students in the state. Some of the programs in Utah's schools include: special education and gifted and talented curricula; a variety of vocational courses of study, such as agriculture, business marketing, entrepreneurship, applied technology, economics and work-based learning; early graduation; distance- and computer-based learning; and adult education.

An estimated 526,000 students were educated in 2006 by more than 25,000 licensed educators at 900-plus community-based public schools—an increase of more than 16,000 students from the previous year.

Student performance is also on the rise in Utah. According to the Utah Board of Education, from 2004 to 2006, average CRT (criterion reference test) percentages for the state's students have increased in each major area: from 77.29 to 78.91 percentile in language arts; from 69.85 to 73.48 in math; and from 61.65 to 65.24 in science. In 2006, with support from the Huntsman Administration, the Utah legislature voted to fund the 4th-6th Grade Math Initiative to strengthen math education in the crucial transition from mathematical to algebraic computation.

- 94 percent of Utah's population 18-64 years of age was classified as literate, the highest literacy rate in the nation. (State Policy Research, Inc., States in Profile)
- Utah ranks second in the U.S. in the percentage of people 25 years and older who have completed high school (92.5 percent).
- Utah has ten public and three Utah-based private universities and colleges.
- The Utah Centers of Excellence Program has been effective at commercializing promising university technologies.



Utah was one of only seven states to receive an "A" grade for college preparation in a National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education Study entitled "Measuring Up 2006." In addition, the Milken Institute's "State Technology and Science Index" ranked Utah 9th among U.S. states for readiness in the knowledge economy.

Utah high school students taking standardized tests such as the ACT, SAT and Advanced Placement tests consistently score much higher than the national average. In 2006, 14,582 Utah public school students took one or more advanced placement tests, and achieved a pass rate of 66 percent, compared with a national pass rate of 58 percent for public schools.

## PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Utah's 92 private and parochial schools, spread throughout 19 of the state's 40 school districts, provide quality educational options for the approximately 15,000 students attending these schools. At 2.5 to 3 percent, Utah has the lowest number of students in private schools in the nation.

In addition to the fine public and private schools, Utah parents can opt to send their children to one of the state's innovative charter schools. Charter schools are non-sectarian public schools that are open to all students and require no tuition. Utah's charter schools offer a variety of courses of study geared to students of different ages and interests in locations throughout the state. Some of Utah's distinctive charter schools include science and technology high schools, schools for fine arts, performing arts, early college coursework and other areas. For more information and a directory of the state's current charter schools, please visit http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/charterschools/default.htm.

The number of Utah charter schools has grown steadily since the program's inception in 2000. In 2006, 51 charter schools educated 19,290 students, with at least seven additional schools entering in 2007.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Students pursuing higher education can choose between a diverse list of colleges and universities that cater to many academic and career goals.

Utah has five public community colleges—College of Eastern Utah, Dixie State College, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College and the new Utah College of Applied Technology—and one private two-year college, LDS Business College. Many bachelor's degrees are offered at three public universities—Southern Utah University (SUU), Utah Valley State University (UVSU) and Weber State University (WSU)—and one private college, Westminster College. In addition, SUU, WSU and Westminster offer selected master's degree programs.

Utah's three major, Ph.D.-level research universities—the University of Utah, Brigham Young University and Utah State University—have each distinguished themselves for their world-class research and innovation. For example, the world's first artificial heart transplant, the first artificial limb (an arm), computer graphics and word processing were all pioneered by faculty at Utah universities.

During 2005-2006, Utah's public institutions of higher learning enrolled a combined 144,302 students. In the past two decades, enrollment in the Utah system of higher education has more than doubled. In addition, more than 30,000 students were enrolled at Brigham Young University, approximately 1,300 at LDS Business College and 3,000 at Westminster College.

## **PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN UTAH DEGREES AWARDED BY FIELD OF STUDY** SUM OF AWARDS-2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR

**MASTER'S ASSOCIATE'S BACHELOR'S DOCTORATE GRAND TOTAL** Agirculture & Natural Resources Architecture & Related Studies Area, Ethnic & Cultural Studies Biological Sciences/Life Sciences Business & Marketing 2,200 3,508 Communications Computer & Info Sciences Education 1.283 2.050 Engineering & Related Technologies 1,313 English Language & Literature Foreign Languages Health Professions 1,081 2,147 History Home Economics Law & Legal Studies NA Liberal Arts & Sciences/General Studies 4,686 NA 4,867 Library Science, Military Tech, and Parks & Rec. Other Vocational Studies 1,115 Philosophy Physical Sciences & Science Technology Psychology Social Sciences & Public Administration 1.463 1,853 Visual & Performing Arts 

8,561

12,280

2,664

23,862

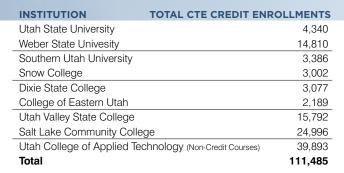
Source: Utah System of Higher Education

Total

## Utah ranks second in the U.S.

in the percentage of people 25 years and older who have completed high school

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION **HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENTS, 2005-2006**





In keeping with Utah's tradition of practical innovation in education, in 2001 the state created the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) to deliver official Applied Technology Education (ATE) programs that range from basic skills training to professional certificates and associate degrees. These programs focus on the demands of the global economy, providing students with applied skills for entry level employment while helping them lay the foundation for the academic and more advanced technical skills they will need for their lifelong career development.

The Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) serves more than 60,000 college and high school students at nine campuses located throughout Utah. UCAT currently offers three Associate of Applied Technology degree options. with more under development, and several hundred certificate training programs. UCAT offers programs for high school students and adults. In addition, eight Utah institutions of higher learning offer credit and non-credit Applied Technology Education programs. For details, visit www.usoe.k12. ut.us/ate/ATC's.htm.

These institutions work closely with the Utah business community to customize short-term programs designed to meet companies' workforce training needs and upgrade employees' knowledge and skills. These include "Custom Fit Training" and "Short-term Intensive Training" (STIT), which provide training tailored to the performance of specific jobs at new or expanding companies; Continuing Education; the Salt Lake Community College Skills Center; and a variety of skills-based conferences, workshops and licensing programs.

For more information about Custom Fit and Short-term Intensive Training programs in Utah, please visit www.slcc.edu/miller/Custom fit/index.htm.





In the 2005-2006 academic year, Utah's public institutions awarded a total of 46,020 degrees: 8,561 associate's degrees; 12,280 baccalaureate degrees; 2,664 master's degrees; 357 doctoral degrees; and 20,768 Utah College of Applied Technology certificates. The three private institutions awarded a total of 9,653 degrees: 368 associate's degrees; 7,469 baccalaureate degrees; 1,280 master's degrees; and 436 doctoral degrees.

## INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

Utah's universities have strong ties to the business community. Utah is known as one of the fastest growing centers for entrepreneurship in the nation, due in part to the influence of the state's universities. Utah universities have created exceptional technology transfer programs to help turn ideas and research into viable commercial prospects.

In addition, Utah's renowned Centers of Excellence program, founded in 1986, provides funding and infrastructure to transform compelling universityrelated ideas into products and companies. During its first 20 years, the Centers of Excellence Program has funded 111 Centers, generated 186 patents resulting in 211 license agreements, and more than 125 Utah-based companies have been created to license and market proprietary technology from the program. The 55 companies still alive in Utah directly employ more than 2,000 people, with an average salary of more than \$65,000.

In the 2006 session, the Utah Legislature passed the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative, which is fostering research-related economic development at Utah's leading institutions of higher learning. The initiative attracts top research talent to the state's research institutions and, when appropriate, assists in R&D and commercialization.

For more information on technology transfer programs in Utah, contact the technology commercialization offices at the University of Utah, Utah State University or Brigham Young University. For more information on Utah's Centers of Excellence program, visit goed.utah.gov/COE/index.html. For more information about USTAR, visit ustar.utah.gov.

GENERAL SOURCE 2007 ECONOMIC REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
UTAH STATE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET. SALT LAKE CITY, UT, 2006.

## WORKFORCE



UTAH'S DYNAMIC ECONOMY IS AMONG THE NATION'S LEADERS FOR GENERATING JOB GROWTH. The state's 2006 employment growth of 5.2 percent was second highest in the U.S. and nearly four times the national growth rate of 1.4 percent. (See also the Quality of Life profile in this volume.)

Two primary advantages for employers in Utah are the quality of the state's growing workforce and the dynamic nature of Utah's economy. Leaders of numerous companies that have relocated headquarters or other major operations to Utah in recent years have commonly reported productivity increases of 15 to 30 percent, which they attribute to the work ethic, qualifications and good health of the state's populace.

Utah has one of the healthiest populations in the U.S., according to recent health statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The most recent edition (2005) of the United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings found Utah to be the fourth healthiest state in the United States, with the country's lowest prevalence of smoking and the lowest incidence of cancer-related deaths. Utahns enjoy the third longest life expectancy in the nation, at 78.6 years, according to the U.S. Census

The technology savvy of Utah's workforce is evident in the fact that the state ranks third in the nation in the Kauffman Foundation's 2007 State New Economy Index. A 2005 U.S. Census Bureau study found Utah to be the No. 1 state in the U.S. for PC Penetration, with a personal computer in 74.1 percent of all Utah households.

Utah enjoys a high literacy rate and ranks second in the nation in the percentage of students that finish high school. (See the Education profile in this book.) Utah's poverty rate of 9.2 percent in 2005 was the lowest in the Mountain West, and tied for sixth lowest in the nation.

- Utah's job growth was 5.2 percent in 2006, second in the U.S.
- Utah is a right-to-work state, with only about 6 percent of employees affiliated
- Intermountain Healthcare is Utah's largest private employer.
- Utah ranks fourth nationally for the overall health of its workforce, according to the United Health Foundation.
- Utah's unemployment rate for March 2007 was 2.4 percent. compared to the national rate of 4.4 percent.

## UTAH AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE BY INDUSTRY Source: Department of Workforce Services

INDUSTRY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Natural Res. & Mining	3,293	3,314	3,470	3,658	3,752	3,759	3,997	4,264	4,122	4,243	4,606	4,778
Construction	1,942	2,049	2,102	2,209	2,279	2,370	2,481	2,536	2,563	2,544	2,589	2,695
Manufacturing	2,300	2,386	2,502	2,616	2,684	2,767	2,915	3,020	3,068	3,159	3,216	3,312
Trade, Trans., Utilities	1,788	1,825	1,951	2,047	2,112	2,245	2,322	2,335	2,395	2,424	2,537	2,608
Information	2,301	2,408	2,531	2,797	2,929	3,303	3,506	3,369	3,329	3,342	3,489	3,752
Financial Activity	2,097	2,212	2,367	2,511	2,728	2,754	2,925	3,045	3,139	3,274	3,420	3,574
Professional & Business Serv.	2,154	2,259	2,229	2,341	2,474	2,602	2,720	2,836	2,814	2,889	3,001	3,107
Education & Health Serv.	1,820	1,873	1,925	1,996	2,061	2,099	2,210	2,253	2,294	2,352	2,436	2,530
Leisure & Hospitality	678	709	752	796	848	888	958	1,021	1,115	1,048	1,070	1,117
Other Services	1,223	1,294	1,373	1,453	1,532	1,591	1,639	1,843	1,854	1,880	1,960	2,018
Government	1,970	2,040	2,116	2,185	2,264	2,304	2,417	2,544	2,653	2,696	2,781	2,847
Average Nonagricultural Wage	\$1,867	\$1,936	\$2,016	\$2,114	\$2,202	\$2,291	\$2,401	\$2,470	\$2,509	\$2,551	\$2,642	\$2,736
INDUSTRY		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00 2	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
INDUSTRY  Natural Res. & Mining		<b>1994-95</b>	<b>1995-96</b> 0.6	<b>1996-97</b> 4.7	<b>1997-98</b> 5.4	<b>1998-99</b> 2.6	1 <b>999-00 2</b> 0.2	6.3	<b>2001-02</b> 6.7	<b>2002-03</b> 2.9	<b>2003-04</b> 8.6	<b>2004-05</b> 3.7
Natural Res. & Mining		1.2	0.6	4.7	5.4	2.6	0.2	6.3	6.7	2.9	8.6	3.7
Natural Res. & Mining Construction		1.2 3.6	0.6 5.5	4.7 2.6	5.4 5.1	2.6 3.2	0.2 4.0	6.3 4.7	6.7 2.2	2.9 -0.7	8.6 1.8	3.7 4.1
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing		1.2 3.6 2.8	0.6 5.5 3.7	4.7 2.6 4.9	5.4 5.1 4.6	2.6 3.2 2.6	0.2 4.0 3.1	6.3 4.7 5.4	6.7 2.2 3.6	2.9 -0.7 3.0	8.6 1.8 1.8	3.7 4.1 3.0
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities Information		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8 -8.4	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1 4.7	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9 5.1	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9 10.5	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2 4.7	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3 12.8	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4 6.1	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6 -3.9	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2 0.4	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7 4.4	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8 7.5
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities Information Financial Activity		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8 -8.4 0.0	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1 4.7 5.5	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9 5.1 7.0	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9 10.5 6.1	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2 4.7 8.7	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3 12.8 0.9	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4 6.1 6.2	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6 -3.9 4.1	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2 0.4 4.3	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7 4.4 4.5	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8 7.5 4.5
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities Information Financial Activity Professional & Business Serv.		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8 -8.4 0.0 2.7	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1 4.7 5.5 4.9	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9 5.1 7.0 -1.3	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9 10.5 6.1 5.0	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2 4.7 8.7 5.7	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3 12.8 0.9 5.2	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4 6.1 6.2 4.5	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6 -3.9 4.1 4.3	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2 0.4 4.3 2.7	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7 4.4 4.5 3.9	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8 7.5 4.5 3.5
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities Information Financial Activity Professional & Business Serv. Education & Health Serv.		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8 -8.4 0.0 2.7 2.9	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1 4.7 5.5 4.9 2.9	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9 5.1 7.0 -1.3 2.8	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9 10.5 6.1 5.0 3.7	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2 4.7 8.7 5.7 3.3	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3 12.8 0.9 5.2 1.8	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4 6.1 6.2 4.5 5.3	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6 -3.9 4.1 4.3 1.9	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2 0.4 4.3 2.7 2.5	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7 4.4 4.5 3.9 3.6	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8 7.5 4.5 3.5 3.9
Natural Res. & Mining Construction Manufacturing Trade, Trans., Utilities Information Financial Activity Professional & Business Serv. Education & Health Serv. Leisure & Hospitality		1.2 3.6 2.8 2.8 -8.4 0.0 2.7 2.9 3.9	0.6 5.5 3.7 2.1 4.7 5.5 4.9 2.9	4.7 2.6 4.9 6.9 5.1 7.0 -1.3 2.8 6.1	5.4 5.1 4.6 4.9 10.5 6.1 5.0 3.7 5.9	2.6 3.2 2.6 3.2 4.7 8.7 5.7 3.3 6.5	0.2 4.0 3.1 6.3 12.8 0.9 5.2 1.8 4.7	6.3 4.7 5.4 3.4 6.1 6.2 4.5 5.3 7.9	6.7 2.2 3.6 0.6 -3.9 4.1 4.3 1.9 6.6	2.9 -0.7 3.0 1.2 0.4 4.3 2.7 2.5	8.6 1.8 1.8 4.7 4.4 4.5 3.9 3.6 2.1	3.7 4.1 3.0 2.8 7.5 4.5 3.5 3.9 4.4





## UTAH'S LARGEST NONAGRICULTURAL **EMPLOYERS: 2006**

The state's workforce is also one of the most multilingual in the nation. The exposure of Utah's populace to many languages and cultures, with many Utahns having lived and worked abroad, greatly enhances the readiness and ability of Utah-based companies and divisions to operate in an increasingly global economy. According to the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, more than 50 languages are taught at Utah universities and more than 130 languages are spoken in the state. Approximately 80 percent of students at Brigham Young University are multilingual.

Employers in Utah can anticipate a young, growing, indigenous labor supply for the foreseeable future. (See the Population profile in this Facts Book.) Utah has the highest birthrate and youngest median age in the nation.

## **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS**

Utah's tremendous job growth is fostered by an exceptional business environment. The Kauffman Foundation's 2007 State New Economy Index named Utah first in the nation for Economic Dynamism, second for Inventor Patents, fourth for Fastest Growing Firms and fifth for Venture Capital. Forbes Magazine named Utah fourth in its 2006 "Best State for Business" rankings. In addition, Utah has also been ranked No. 5 on the list of "America's Top Ten Pro-Business States" in the Keeping Jobs in America: Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States 2007, which examines 29 factors relative to a state's business-friendliness.

The Utah Department of Workforce Services estimates that for 2006, the total non-agricultural wages in the state increased 10.9 percent to \$41.8 billion, total personal income increased 9.5 percent to \$74.4 billion, and the average wage increased 5.4 percent to \$34,600. The Utah average wage ranks 35th nationally, reflecting the fact that the state has the nation's youngest workforce. However it is important to recognize Utah's 11th place ranking in household income as one of the best in the nation.

The income and wage comparisons of Utah and the US labor force might seem to show a weakness in Utah, but it is not a reflection of low wages or income. The numbers are actually a reflection of Utah's young labor force compared to the old US labor force. This young working population is a strong positive for business today and will continue to be a positive well into the future.

Data comparisons also show that Utah's more experienced workers are highly competitive against national comparisons. This trend will continue to maintain our state's favorable household income ranking. The average Utah household income of \$54,813 (measured by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2003-2005) is the tenth highest in the U.S. The national average is \$46,326.

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Utah's unemployment was 2.4 percent in March 2007, second lowest among U.S. states. The 2006 annual unemployment rate of 3.3 percent was also the nation's second lowest. The national rate was 4.4 percent. From March 2006 to March 2007, the number of Utah jobs increased from 1,189,200 to 1,244,100, an increase of 54,900.

Utah's ongoing job growth boom is being driven by growth in every major industry sector of the economy. According to the Utah Department of Work-

	EM	PLOYMENT
FIRM NAME	BUSINESS	RANGE
Intermountain Healthcare	Hospitals and Clinics	20,000+
State of Utah	State Government	20,000+
Brigham Young University	Higher Education 1	5,000-19,999
University of Utah (Incl. Hospital)	Higher Education 1	5,000-19,999
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Department Stores 1	0,000-14,999
Hill Air Force Base	Military Installation 1	0,000-14,999
Granite School District	Public Education	7,000-9,999
Jordan School District	Public Education	7,000-9,999
Davis County School District	Public Education	5,000-6,999
Utah State University	Higher Education	5,000-6,999
Convergys Corporation	Telemarketing	5,000-6,999
The Kroger Group Company	Retail Stores	5,000-6,999
Salt Lake County	Local Government	5,000-6,999
Alpine School District	Public Education	5,000-6,999
A Plus Benefits, Inc.	Temp. Employment Placement	5,000-6,999
Internal Revenue Service	Federal Government	5,000-6,999
U.S. Postal Service	Mail Distribution	5,000-6,999
Albertsons	Grocery Stores	4,000-4,999
Discover Financial Services	Consumer Loans	4,000-4,999
ATK Thiokol	Aerospace Equipment Mfg.	4,000-4,999
Autoliv ASP, Inc.	Automotive Components Mfg.	4,000-4,999
SOS Temporary Services	Temp.Employment Placement	3,000-3,999
Delta Air Lines	Air Transportation	3,000-3,999
Zions First National Bank	Banking	3,000-3,999
Weber County School District	Public Education	3,000-3,999
Salt Lake City School District	Public Education	3,000-3,999
Wells Fargo	Banking	3,000-3,999
Salt Lake City Corporation	Local Government	3,000-3,999
United Parcel Service	Courier Service	2,000-2,999
Icon Health and Fitness, Inc.	Exercise Equipment Mfg.	2,000-2,999
Kelly Services, Inc.	Temp. Employment Placement	2,000-2,999
Nebo School District	Public Education	2,000-2,999
Weber State University	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
SkyWest Airlines	Air Transportation	2,000-2,999
Teleperformance USA	Telemarketing	2,000-2,999
Resource Management	Leasing Company	2,000-2,999
Home Depot	Building Supply Store	2,000-2,999
Salt Lake Community College	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
Employer Solution Group, Inc.	Leasing Company	2,000-2,999
Washington County School District	Public Education	2,000-2,999
Utah Valley State College	Higher Education	2,000-2,999
Qwest Corporation	Phone Service/Communications	2,000-2,999
ACS Business Process Solutions	Data Processing	2,000-2,999
L3 Communications	Communications Manufacturing	2,000-2,999
Provo City School District	Public Education	2,000-2,999
Rocky Mountain Power	Electric Power Generation	2,000-2,999
	and Distribution	
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Work	force Information.06 ERG	

## FASTEST GROWING UTAH OCCUPATIONS WITH 100 OR MORE ANNUAL OPENINGS, 2002-2012

force Services (DWS), the greatest growth came from construction, which added an estimated 14,800 employees for an 18.1 percent gain. Professional and business services added 10,600 jobs, a 7.2 percent gain. Trade, transportation and utilities added 8,900 employees, a 3.9 percent gain. Education and health services added 5,600 jobs, a 4.4 percent gain. The state's manufacturing sector added 5,500 employees, up 5 percent. Financial activity added 4,100 new jobs, a 6.1 percent gain. Leisure and hospitality also added 4,100 jobs, an increase of 3.9 percent. Government added 2,600 jobs, a 1.3 percent gain. Information and the "other services" category each added 1,000 jobs, just over a 3 percent gain for both categories.

Overall, the Utah industry category with the largest number of workers was trade, transportation and utilities, employing approximately 234,800 workers (19.4 percent of the workforce) in 2006. This category was followed by government (204,900: 17.0 percent); professional and business services (157,300: 13.0 percent); education and health (134,200: 11.1 percent); manufacturing (123,000: 10.7 percent); and leisure and hospitality (108,300: 9.5 percent).

## **RIGHT-TO-WORK**

Utah is one of 22 U.S. states operating under a right-to-work law. Under the Utah provision, no individual seeking or holding a job in the state may be forced to join or pay dues to a labor union, nor conversely prevented from joining a union and/or engaging in collective bargaining. Union membership is low in Utah, with only about 6 percent of manufacturing employees affiliating with unions, compared to a national average of about 12 percent.

## UTAH'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS

The list of Utah's 10 largest employers has remained fairly consistent in recent years. Two organizations in the state employ more than 20,000 workers each: Intermountain Healthcare, a statewide network of hospitals and clinics; and the State of Utah. Utah's two largest universities—the University of Utah (including the University Hospital) and Brigham Young University—are the next largest employers, with between 15,000 and 19,999 employees. Wal-Mart, with its growing number of Utah stores, is in the 10,000-14,999 employee category as the fifth largest employer. Hill Air Force Base, a military installation in Ogden, employs between 10,000 and 14,999, down from past years in which it exceeded 20,000 workers. Two major school districts, Granite and Jordan, have employees numbering between 7,000 and 9,999. Davis County School District is ninth largest employer, followed by Utah State University; both employ between 5,000 and 6,999 Utah workers.

OCCUPATION	PERCENTAGE GROWTH
Medical Assistants	6.90%
Home Health Aides	6.80%
Pharmacists	6.70%
Personal and Home Care Aides	6.40%
Social and Human Service Assistants	6.40%
Computer Software Engineers, Systems	6.40%
Computer Systems Software Engineers, Application	s 5.70%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## **UTAH'S HIGHEST PAYING INDUSTRY SECTORS**

In 2005, the mining sector continued as Utah's average wage leader, with a monthly average of \$4,778, followed by the information sector (which includes information technology, libraries, and print and broadcast media) at \$3,752/mo; financial activity (banking, insurance and other financial services), \$3,574/mo; manufacturing, \$3,312/mo; and professional and business services (a broad group category ranging from engineering services and testing labs to research firms, call centers and waste management) at \$3,107/mo.

In 2005, average monthly wages increased in every industry sector, by an overall average of 3.6 percent, with greater increases anticipated by DWS for 2006

General Sources: State of Utah 2007 Economic Report to the Governor; http://www.edcutah.org

Utah ranks **first in the nation** for the percentage of households with computers.

## TRANSPORTATION



**UTA'S FRONTRUNNER COMMUTER RAIL** 

UTAH'S STRATEGIC LOCATION, offers significant transportation advantages for the state's companies and residents. Utah is an excellent base for major regional air, ground and rail distribution, as its primary population centers are essentially equidistant from all major western U.S. markets. Salt Lake City is a full-service customs port city, and there are additional highway ports of entry throughout Utah.

The primary components in Utah's superb transportation system include: an efficient international airport; an excellent highway system built around major east-west (I-80) and north-south (I-15) interstate highways that intersect in the middle of the state's leading population center; two major railroads; and steadily expanding light rail and commuter rail systems.

Over the past several years, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) improved and expanded the I-15 corridor in Salt Lake County, and is addressing key areas of Utah County and Davis County in order to facilitate improved traffic flow in the most heavily trafficked areas.

Utah's moniker, "The Crossroads of the West," is an apt description. The Salt Lake International Airport (SLC), situated approximately five miles northwest of downtown Salt Lake City, is located within a 2.5-hour flight of half the population in the U.S. Since 1927, when Charles Lindbergh first piloted his plane to what was then known as Woodward Field, SLC has developed into the 25th-busiest in the U.S., and 50th-busiest in the world, serving approximately 21.5 million passengers in 2006.

SLC offers non-stop flights to more than 100 cities, included the top 50 Salt Lake destinations, and has more than 800 scheduled flights daily, with more than 73,000 available airplane seats. SLC's innovative language translation service, Language Line, provides real-time translation of 250 languages through-

- One-half of the U.S. population is located within a 2.5-hour flight of Salt Lake City
- Salt Lake City International (SLC) Airport served 21.5 million passengers in 2006, making it the nation's 25th busiest airport in the U.S. and the world's 50th busiest.
- SLC International ranked first among U.S. airports in on-time departures and second for on-time arrivals performance in 2005, according to Bureau of Transportation Statistics.
- 2,300-plus registered carriers provide intrastate and interstate motor freight services.
- The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) was awarded "2002 Transit System of the Year" by the American Public Transit Association.
- More than four million riders were transported on Utah's light-rail system, TRAX, during the two weeks of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.
- In October 2006, TRAX passed the 50-million-rider mark.



out the airport. SLC ranked first in the nation for on-time departures and second for on-time arrivals in 2005, according to Bureau of Transportation statistics. In 2006, 16 carriers handled more than 550 million pounds of air cargo in Salt Lake County; volumes have increased 9 percent annually in the past decade. U.S. Customs offers "on demand" cargo and charter flight inspection.

SLC is Delta's second-largest hub, and the largest in the Western U.S.; in concert with its commuter partners, the airline operates approximately 250 scheduled daily departures from SLC.

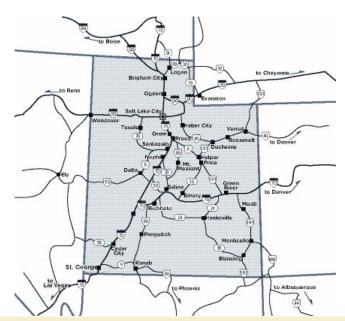
Utah-based SkyWest Airlines, a United Express and Delta Connection carrier, is the largest U.S. independently-owned regional carrier. SkyWest has been ranked the No. 1 on-time mainland airline carrier for 2003 through 2005. System-wide, SkyWest serves approximately 237 cities in North America and the Caribbean, with circa 2,520 daily departures on a fleet of more than 400 aircraft.

Salt Lake International currently has two terminals, six concourses and 80 gates. In contrast to many other metropolitan airports, Salt Lake City International has acquired substantial property for the future expansion of services, terminals and runways, in order to ensure the future quality of air service, avoiding the delays, congestion and overcrowding that characterize many airports.

For further information, contact Salt Lake City Airport Authority, 776 North Terminal Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116, (801) 575-2400, or visit www. slcairport.com.

In addition to SLC, there are plentiful air travel options located throughout the state for business travelers and adventurers alike. As of January 2007, Global Aviation Navigator listed 115 public and private airports and 37 heliports in Utah, while AirNav.com lists 47 public use airports throughout the state.

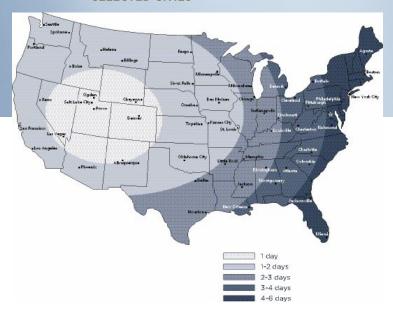
For listings of Utah airports visit www.airnav.com/airports/state/UT.html, or www.onlineutah.com/airports.shtml.



**MAJOR FREEWAY SYSTEMS** 

## FRIEGHT DELIVERY TIME

## **SELECTED CITIES**



### **HIGHWAY**

Utah's road transportation system includes more than 43,000 miles of federal, state and local highways and roads, of which 14 percent is classified as urban mileage. The state's interstate highways provide efficient access to population and economic centers in neighboring states, while the in-state highways offer effective connections between cities and the state's many recreation areas.

Utah's two most important highways are I-15, which runs north into Idaho and south into western Arizona, southern Nevada and southern California, passing through or close by most of Utah's largest population centers; I-80, a coast-to-coast freeway that runs west into Nevada and into the San Francisco Bay Area, and east through Wyoming and on to New York. Other significant interstate highways include I-70, an east-west freeway that begins in the central part of the state and runs into Colorado and on to Maryland; and I-84, which originates in north-central Utah and runs west through Idaho and the leading population centers in the Pacific Northwest. These interstate highways are essential to the efficient transportation of goods and materials throughout Utah and to locations outside the state. An important link for intrastate traffic include I-215, the Salt Lake County belt route. Highway 89 is an important north-south route that connects numerous important commercial centers and tourist destinations.

In addition to the main interstate routes, Utah's primary and secondary federal and state highways provide easy access to rural areas of the state. For more information, visit www.goed.utah.gov/national/highway.html.

2007 also featured the largest funding increase for highways in Utah history to facilitate traffic flow in the most heavily trafficked areas along the Wasatch Front. The two largest projects include the Mountain View corridor system on Salt Lake County's west side and a major widening and rebuilding project of I-15 in Utah County, akin to the Salt Lake County project done in connection with the 2002 Winter Olympics. These transportation projects are anticipated to be completed by 2015.

For more information about Utah transportation services, current and planned construction projects, or weather and road conditions, contact the Utah Dept. of Transportation at (801) 965-4000, or visit www.dot.utah.gov.

### MOTOR FREIGHT

According to the 2007 Economic Report to the Governor, a projected 234,800 Utahns were employed in Trade, Transportation and Utilities in 2005, an estimated increase of 5.2 percent from 2005. Utah carriers provide service from Utah's metropolitan areas to almost any point in the western United States. There are currently more than 700 trucking companies based in Utah, and intrastate and interstate motor freight services are provided by approximately 2,500 registered carriers. Carriers within the state provide one-day and two-day direct services to any point in the continental western United States.

For more information about Utah's trucking industry, visit the Utah Trucking Association Website (www.utahtrucking.com), or the Utah Department of Transportation (www.udot.utah.gov).

## **CUSTOMS PORT OF ENTRY**

Salt Lake City is a full-service customs port city. Currently, goods that enter under bond may be stored in customs-bonded facilities for up to five years without payment of customs duty. If goods are exported during this period, no duty is paid. Otherwise, duties are payable at the end of the term or upon entry into U.S. markets for consumption.

In addition to Salt Lake City headquarters, Utah has ports of entry in Daniels, Echo, Kanab, Loma, Monticello, Peerless, Perry, St. George and Wendover. For more information about Utah's port of entry program, visit www.udot.utah. gov/poe/ports/default.htm.

Utah has approximately 1,700 miles of railroad track stretching from Iron County in the southwest, Grand County in the southeast, Tooele County in the west and Box Elder and Cache counties in the north. These rail lines converge in the Salt Lake-Ogden metropolitan area. (Visit goed.utah.gov/national/rail. html for map).

Utah's central location makes the state an excellent interline switching route for shipments headed to the West Coast, as well as to eastern and midwestern main terminals, without the need to back-haul shipments. Union Pacific is Utah's major freight service provider, while Amtrak provides passenger service to major U.S. destinations.



## **MAJOR UTAH RAIL LIINES**

UNION PACIFIC'S NEW 260-ACRE SALT LAKE CITY INTERMODAL TERMINAL

With more than 1,700 miles of Union Pacific track lines, Utah is an excellent interline switching route for shipments to the West Coast and to midwest and Eastern main terminals. Salt Lake City is the westernmost point from which all West Coast cities can be served directly by rail without backtracking, with second-morning service to approximately 90 percent of the Western U.S. Union Pacific's new \$83-million, 260-acre Salt Lake City Intermodal Terminal can service 250,000 truck, rail and ocean-going containers annually.

## MASS TRANSIT

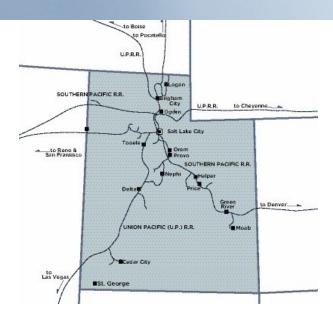
Utah's mass transit system has expanded considerably during the past five years. Currently, the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) serves an average of 86,000 riders daily on its bus and rail lines. Utah's first TRAX light rail line, between Salt Lake City and Sandy, opened in 1999, and within less than a year, well over five million passengers had taken a ride on the line. More than four million riders were transported on TRAX during the two weeks of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

Since opening day TRAX has far outpaced initial projections of 14,000 combined riders per day on both the Sandy/Salt Lake Line and the University of Utah Line, and passed a major milestone in October 2006, with more than 50 million riders since its inception.

In addition to its two current TRAX routes, the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) has purchased over 175 miles of railroad corridor along the Wasatch Front for future expansion of the TRAX light rail system, as well as a commuter rail system that will eventually run from Brigham City in the north to Payson in southern Utah County.

Over the next several years, commuters in the leading population centers along Utah's Wasatch Front will benefit from some of the most significant public transit projects in the state's history. During the 2006 election, voters in neighboring Salt Lake and Utah Counties passed a major initiative known as Proposition 3 in Salt Lake County, and the "Opinion Question" in Utah County.

As a result, the TRAX light rail system, which currently operates lines running between downtown Salt Lake City and the University of Utah and between the city center and Sandy, will add four extensions in Salt Lake County: west into West Valley City; southwest into West Jordan, South Jordan, and the Daybreak community; south into Draper; and northwest to the Salt Lake International Airport.



In addition, a TRAX light rail line will run between Provo and Salt Lake City, as well as a new commuter rail system, called FrontRunner—a higher-speed train that runs on heavier tracks and makes fewer stops—with two lines: one will run between Provo and Salt Lake City, the other between Salt Lake City and the Ogden area to the north.

A major new intermodal hub is currently under construction in downtown Salt Lake City, which will bring together five modes of passenger transportation: TRAX, UTA's bus lines, the FrontRunner commuter rail system, Greyhound and Amtrak.

Other major plans are currently being contemplated for other Utah metropolitan areas. Bus service is available throughout most of the Wasatch Front and many other communities, including service for riders with disabilities.

For more information on Utah's mass transit system and future plans, visit UTA's site at www.rideuta.com.

## **GOVERNMENT**

UTAH GOVERNOR JON HUNTSMAN and his administration continue to build upon a strong tradition of innovative economic development legislation and programs, developed through collaboration between the state's public and private sectors.

To further elevate economic development in Utah, the Huntsman Administration created the new Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) with the passage of House Bill 318 during the Utah Legislature's 2005 General Session. The bill divided the former Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) into the Department of Community and Culture and the Governor's Office of Economic Development, which is under the direct supervision of Governor Huntsman. Visit www.goed.utah.gov for more information.

With economic development under the direct oversight of the Governor, GOED is actively implementing Governor Huntsman's Economic Revitalization Plan, and a variety of dynamic business development programs and initiatives in the state, such as the Centers of Excellence program, the Utah Fund of Funds, the Utah Economic Clusters and Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiatives.



- Utah was one of only two U.S. states to receive an A grade for governance in a major 2007 World magazine study.
- Utah's government has a strong tradition of collaborating with the state's private sector to create innovative economic development legislation.
- Programs such as the Utah Centers of Excellence and the Utah Fund of Funds are helping to create compelling jobs and companies in the state.
- In January 2005, Governing magazine's Government Performance Project gave Utah's state government a grade of A-, the highest grade among all U.S. states, based on four criteria: money, people, infrastructure and information.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Utah regulators and legislators worked closely with leaders in the state's banking sector to develop laws and policies that helped establish Utah as the world's leading center for special purpose industrial banks (also known as industrial loan companies, or ILCs) for companies in a variety of industries. For more information on Utah's industrial banking industry and other financial services categories, visit the Utah Department of Financial Institutions Website, www.dfi.utah.gov.

Beginning in 1986, the state's legislature developed the innovative, highly successful Centers of Excellence (COE) program to help accelerate and commercialize research and development in Utah's institutions of higher learning. Many successful companies and products have developed as a result of the Centers program. In the past 20 years, the Legislature has provided \$49.4 million in funding for the COE program, including approximately \$47 million in direct funding for 110 Centers located at Utah universities. Some prominent COE companies include: InteliSum (formerly RappidMapper), MegaStir Technologies, Inc., Myriad Genetics, Sonic Innovations, Sarcos, Sentrx Surgical, TechniScan Medical Systems and Theratech (acquired by Watson Pharmaceuticals). Since its inception, the program's centers in aggregate have entered into more than 200 combined licensing agreements and obtained more than 170 patents. The COE program has resulted in the creation of 185 companies, of which more than 65 are still active and employ between 1,500 and 1,800 people. For more information on the Centers of Excellence program, visit http://goed.utah.gov/COE/index.html.

Utah has also developed renowned programs to institute major economic development and create viable business opportunities in rural Utah communities. In the past five years, low-cost equipment leases, training programs, state income tax credits and other resources have helped entrepreneurs establish companies in rural Utah that provide a variety of products and services for clients and business partners statewide, nationally and globally. Dozens of participating companies have created more than 1,000 new jobs throughout the state, and Utah has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce for producing the most innovative economic development initiative in the nation.

In 2003, collaboration between the state's legislature and leaders in Utah's information technology and life sciences industries resulted in the passage of House Bill 240, variously called the "Utah Fund of Funds" or the "Venture Capital Enhancement Act." The bill created a series of incentives to draw funding into Utah's economy to provide needed growth capital for promising companies in the state. The Utah Fund of Funds will not directly invest in Utah companies but has the charge to assist in providing Utah start-ups and growth companies a wider breadth of venture capital and investment specialties. For more information on the Utah Fund of Funds, visit www.utahfof.com.

GOED's innovative Utah Economic Clusters Initiative, instituted by the Huntsman Administration, is designed to marshal activities and resources in Utah's areas of greatest strength – to create high-paying jobs and economic development by establishing synergies, improving distribution channels, creating and leveraging economies of scale, and meeting evolving workforce needs. Utah will initially focus on economic clusters with key areas of core competencies GOED has identified as emerging or mature sectors in the state, including life sciences, software development and information technology, aerospace, financial services, energy and natural resources, defense and homeland security, and competitive accelerators. For more information on the Economic Clusters Initiative, visit goed.utah.gov/initiatives/clusters/index.html.

The Governor's International Trade and Diplomacy Office assists Utah companies in developing markets for their products and services in foreign countries. The office has launched a series of national and international exchanges designed to develop and strengthen personal and business relationships between business and government leaders in Utah and leaders in other U.S. markets and abroad, and is developing a Utah World Trade Center. For more information, visit www.international.utah.gov.

During the 2006 Utah legislative session, strong collaboration between industry, government and education leaders resulted in passage of the USTAR economic development initiative, which is designed to maximize researchoriented technology development and commercialization from Utah's leading institutions of higher learning by attracting and developing top research teams throughout the world. For more information on USTAR, visit ustar.utah.gov.

The Utah Legislature and the Huntsman Administration support the development of Utah's film industry through a variety of incentive and funding programs. The Motion Picture Incentive Fund (MPIF) is a post-performance rebate that returns 10 percent for every dollar spent in Utah. Governor Huntsman's proposed 2007 budget includes \$1.5 million of one-time funding and \$3.5 million in ongoing funding for the MPIF. Filmmakers also receive support from Senate Bill 190, which offers a point-of-sale sales tax exemption on machinery and equipment to filmmakers, and the Utah Transient Room Tax rebate, which makes up to 3 percent of room sales tax refundable on stays of 30 or more consecutive days. According to the Utah Film Commission, the state's film industry experienced record-breaking growth in 2006 with an overall growth increase of 32 percent and a 15 to one average rate of return for economic investment. The state's travel and tourism efforts are further strengthened by the official "Utah: Life Elevated" national branding program. For more information, visit travel.utah.gov.

## **QUALITY GOVERNANCE**

Utah state government is consistently recognized as one of the most fiscally sound and effectively managed U.S. states. The state was recently ranked by USA Today as the nation's best-managed state, and was one of only two U.S. states to receive an A grade for governance in a major 2007 World magazine study. The state of Utah enjoys a AAA bond rating and is fiscally sound.

Utah has also been an innovator in the use of technology to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of government services. In the past



decade, local and state governments in Utah have pioneered the use of digital signatures and other technologies for conducting official state business, helping increase the effective use of technology on the local, state and national levels

The state's official Website, www.utah.gov, was named the nation's best Websites in a major 2005 Brown University study, from a field of more than 260 federal, state and local sites. Utah.gov provides a multitude of government-related services 24 hours per day, seven days per week. In addition, www.business.utah.gov provides a host of online business-related services and resources.

Utah's tremendous job growth is fostered by an exceptional business environment. The Kauffman Foundation's 2007 State New Economy Index named Utah first in the nation for Economic Dynamism, second for Inventor Patents, fourth for Fastest Growing Firms and fifth for Venture Capital. Forbes Magazine named Utah fourth in its 2006 "Best State for Business" rankings. In addition, Utah has also been ranked number 5 on the list of "America's Top Ten Pro-Business States" in the Keeping Jobs in America: Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States 2007, which examines 29 factors relative to a state's support of business. (Also see the Workforce section in this volume.)

## **REAL ESTATE**



Utah is currently experiencing the largest construction growth in the state's history. New permit-authorized construction in Utah reached an all-time high of \$7.6 billion, eclipsing the previous mark of \$6.4 billion set in 2005. Residential construction reached a new all-time high of \$5.1 billion, an increase from \$4.7 billion in 2005. In 2006, non-residential construction grew to \$1.6 billion from \$1.2 billion in 2005, driven by the inception of a number of ambitious projects initiated in the Salt Lake city center. Utah's real estate growth is also being reinforced by Utah's relatively low construction costs.

## OFFICE, INDUSTRIAL AND RETAIL SPACE

Utah's expanding economy is profoundly impacting the state's market for office

According to Commerce CRG Commercial Real Estate's Mid-year 2007 report, the demand for office space in Utah has driven sharply declining vacancy rates, especially for Class A space. Class A office space vacancy in Salt Lake City's central business district has steeply declined during the past several years, from 9.77 percent at year-end 2004 to 4.38 percent at year-end 2005 and .93 at mid-year 2007. This is in part due to the major reconstruction of the downtown business district. The City Creek Center is a mixed-use development expected to be completed in 2011. Upon completion, the project, which called for the demolition of two major malls and other office space, will feature upscale condominiums, open-air shopping, entertainment, dining and a variety of commercial real estate options.

The suburban Salt Lake County has followed more modest trends with the migration of commercial centers reaching further south into the suburbs of Salt Lake City. According to the Coldwell Banker 2007 Mid-year Market Study, numerous new buildings have been added to the market, increasing the vacancy of Class A space from 8.46 percent in 2005 to 10.63 percent in 2007.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- There are two major university-affiliated research parks and well over 100 quality industrial parks in Utah.
- Utah is in the midst of the greatest construction expansion in the state's history.
- Utah's dynamic economy is driving greatly reduced office space vacancy rates.
- Building construction costs are lower in Utah than in most other western states.

## **UTAH CLASS A OFFICE VACANCY RATE** BY COUNTY, 2007

County	Vacancy Rate
Salt Lake: Salt Lake Central Business District	1.39%
Periphery	2.32%
Suburban	7.75%
Utah	11.89%
Davis	3.94%
Weber	15.81%
Summit	14.87%
Washington	7.78%
Source: Commerce CRG Commercial Real Estate's Mid-year 2007 report	

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION **COST INDEXES**

City	Commercial Cost Index
Salt Lake City, UT	88.1
Provo, UT	86.8
Ogden, UT	85.2
Denver, CO	95.1
San Diego, CA	104.3
San Francisco, CA	121.8
Las Vegas, NV	101.8
Source: R.S. Means Co. Construction Cost Index (Weighted Avg.). January 2	2007

Projections show that the demand is also staying constant to absorb the additional space as it comes on board. Trends for industry and retail were also strong in Salt Lake County, as significant expansion was coupled with often historically low vacancy rates.

The southern part of the county has seen the most activity in terms of growth and development. The RiverPark Corporate Center in South Jordan added three new office buildings totaling nearly 400,000 square feet. Other significant projects include Millrock Park II and the Stevens-Henager Building in Murray and South Towne Corporate Center II in Sandy.

Commerce CRG reports that in Utah County, Class A office space has decreased dramatically, from 14.21 percent in the fourth guarter of 2005 to 11.89 percent in Q2 2007. The most dramatic movement was in Orem, where Class A vacancy decreased from 13.38 to 2.31 percent during the same period. Class B vacancy was at 8.99 percent in Q2 2007, down from 11.39 percent in Q4 2005. Industrial space vacancy in Utah County decreased from 6.6 percent to 2.7 percent during the course of 2006, while retail space vacancy dropped to 5.02 percent. The new IM Flash facility in Lehi is driving considerable economic activity in northern Utah County.

Other parts of Utah are also experiencing significant non-residential real estate activity. In Davis County, Class A office vacancy is 3.94 percent; Class B, 13.64; and Class C, 15.71 percent. Industrial space is at 7.96 percent, while retail averages 8.38 percent. The new West Side Development business and technology park adjacent to Hill Air Force Base is increasing business activity in the area, as is the addition of new Costco and Wal-Mart stores.

In Weber County, 2007 office space Class A vacancy was 15.81 percent; Class B, 13.00; and Class C, 16.53. Industrial vacancy averaged 10.38 percent, retail 10.77. Major redevelopment projects are driving significant economic activity in the area, including the Solomon Center in retail and the industrial Business Depot Ogden.

In thriving Summit County, industrial and retail 2006 space vacancy rates were only 1.0 and 3.08 percent, respectively, while office vacancy rates rose slightly to 12.68 percent from 10.03 percent in 2005.

In Washington County, one of the nation's leading population growth areas, total office vacancy was 7.5 percent, industrial vacancy was 3.0 percent and retail vacancy was 3.25 percent. More than 900,000 square feet of industrial space were under construction or in the final planning stages at year-end 2006.

## **CONSTRUCTION COSTS**

Construction costs in Utah are generally lower than in other major U.S. commercial centers, which is a significant concern in light of rising costs nationwide. According to the RS Means 2006 Construction Cost Index for commercial buildings, the materials and installation costs in four leading Utah business communities—Salt Lake City, Provo, Ogden and Logan—is well below the national average. The commercial construction cost in Salt Lake City was 88.1 percent of the national average; Provo, 86.8; Ogden, 85.2; and Logan, 86.3.

## **RESEARCH PARKS**

Two Utah research universities have well-developed, high-level research parks. The 320-acre park adjacent to the University of Utah campus in Salt Lake City is a bastion of university- and business-generated innovation. In 2006, Research Park housed 72 university entities with 2,697 employees and 42 private businesses with 4,469 employees in 37 buildings. Also located at the park is a 200-room hotel, conference center and restaurant complex. The park's master plan emphasizes the preservation and enhancement of land adjacent to the university. A number of nationally significant companies have been launched at Research Park, including ARUP Laboratories, Myriad Genetics, NPS Pharmaceuticals, Ceramatec, Sarcos and Theratech. Organizations housed at Research Park generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COST INDEXES

\$50 MILLION-PLUS UTAH PROJECTS 2006 AND BEYOND

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
Projects completed in 2006:	
BOC Group hydrogen facility	\$50m
Cephalon Inc. pharmaceutical plant	\$50m
Currant Creek gas fired power plant	\$350m
Hunter Creek residences	\$60m
IHC Summit County Hospital	\$50m
KraftMaid Cabinetry	\$106m
POMA water pipeline & treatment plant	\$62m & \$80m
Salt Palace Convention Center expansion	\$80m
Sunset Equestrian Estates residences	\$120m
Wasatch Spectrum mixed development	\$100m
Zermatt Resort & Spa	\$90m
Projects beyond 2006:	
Amangiri Resort and Spa	\$200m
ATI (plant & equipment) titanium spong mfg	\$35m & \$290m
Ben Lomond Hotel restoration	\$50m
Black Rock Ridge condominiums	\$106m
Bridges at City Front condominiums	\$50m
Central Utah Project Uinta Basin Replacement Project	\$70m
Central Utah Project Utah Lake Water System	\$460m
City Creek Center downtown renovation	\$1.5b
Daybreak by Kennecott Land residential development	\$1.3b
East Town Village mixed use development	\$110m
Frank E. Moss United States Courthouse	\$115m
FrontRunner commuter rail	\$581m
Hamilton Partners 21 story office tower	\$100m
Hidden Valley Ivory Homes	\$300m
I-15 Weber County widening	\$231m
IHC Intermountain Medical Center	\$387m
IHC Southwest Hospital	\$50m
IHC Utah Valley Regional Medical Center expansion	\$50m
IPA coal power plant expansion	\$2.1b
Ivory Ridge residential development  Jordan Bluffs mixed use development	\$210m \$500m
LDS Church History/Archives Building	\$65m
Lake Side Power Project power plant	\$300m
Legacy Parkway construction	\$685m
Metro Condominiums	\$50m
Midtown Village mixed use development	\$75m
MountainStar Healthcare hospital	\$100m
The Pointe office center	\$100m
REAL Salt Lake soccer stadium (Project Beehive)	\$110m
RiverPark Corporate Center	\$300m
Rosecrest residential mixed use development	\$400m
Saratoga Springs/American Fork connector road	\$92.5m
Silver Star Development mixed use	\$90m
Southern Corridor Highway	\$84m
Spring Canyon Energy natural gas power plant	\$200m
St. George Regional Airport	\$110m
St. Regis Hotel (5 star)	\$250m
SunCrest mixed use development	\$250m
Sundance Commons retail/business development	\$200m
Terrace at Traverse Mountain retail & entertainment	\$300m
The District retail development	\$120m
Traverse Mountain mixed use residential	\$650m
Trolley Square remodel & expansion	\$80m
Utah State Capitol renovation	\$200m
Valley Fair Mall renovation & expansion	\$50m
Vintaro residential/mixed use development	\$120m
West Liberty Foods LLC meat processing	\$60m

## A SAMPLING OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PARKS BY COUNTY



COUNTY	PARK SIZE IN AG	CRES	COUNTY	PARK SIZE IN A	CRES.	COUNTY	PARK SIZE IN	ACRES
Beaver	Beaver City Industrial Park	240		Centennial Park	1596		Bunker Industrial Park	73
	Milford City Industrial Park	10		Commerce Park	102		Canyon Park	118
Box Elder	Box Elder County Industrial Park	50		Cottonwood Corporate Center	43		Cedar Hills	40
	Tremonton City Industrial Park	200		Decker Lake Business Center	1024		East Bay Business Park	450
Cache	Lewiston Industrial Development Park	350		Draper Business Park	63		Eagle Mountain Industry Park	400
	Logan Quadrangle Industrial Park	2500		Jordan Commons	22		Fox Ridge Business Park	580
	Logan River Industrial Park	100		Jordan Landing	95		Gateway Technology Park	100
	Sorenson Business Park	40		Lake Park Corporate Center	640		The Grove Business Park	200
	South Main (RDA)	100		Metro Business Park	280		Ironton Industrial Park	300+
	Utah State Research & Technical Park	60		Pheasant Hollow	55		Jim Alvey Business Park	40
Carbon	Carbon County Industrial Park	110		Pioneer Park	100		MS Business Park	40
	The City of Wellington	480		The Pointe Corporate Center	43		North Pointe Business Park	45
Davis	Centerville Industrial Park	109		Research Park - University of Utah	320		Orem Center Business Park	100
	Freeport Center	735		Riverpark	110		Payson Business Park	250
	Freeport Center West	45		Salt Lake International Center	720		Pleasant Grove Gateway	50
	Highway 193 Business & Technology Park	300		Sorenson Research Park	104		Riverwoods Research & Business Park	135
	Kaysville Industrial Park	175		Sorenson Technology Park I	500		Spring Haven	65
	Layton Industrial Park	10		Sorenson Technology Park II	52		Springpointe Commercial Center	130
	North Salt Lake Industrial Park	900		Southgate	95		Springville Industrial Park	360
	West Centerville Industrial Park	150		South Town Business Center	97		Summit Ridge	230
	West Side Development:	600		21st Century Industrial Park	125		Swenson Industrial Park	500
Emery	Green River Industrial Park	400		Union Park Center	40		Thanksgiving Point Business Park	80
Garfield	Panguitch Industrial Park	100		Wagner Park	500		Timpanogos Technology Park	109
Grand	S/N Limited	33		West Jordan Industrial Park	300		Traverse Mountain Tech	25
Iron	AMPAC Industrial Park	2000		West Valley Technology Park	730		Utah Valley Business Park	95
	Cedar City Industrial Park	120		Westridge Commerce Park	250		Westview Industrial Park	60
	Coal Creek Industrial Park	64	San Juan	Blanding Commercial	371		810 N. Business Park	250
	Gilbert Development Industrial Park	240		Monticello Industrial Park	23	Wasatch	Heber City Industrial Park	33
	Highway 56 Industrial Park	100	Sanpete	Mt. Pleasant Industrial Park	220	Washington		600
Juab	Juab Industrial Park	40	Sevier	Richfield City Industrial Park	50		Gateway Industrial Park	300
Millard	Fillmore Industrial Park	300		Salina Commercial Center	395		Millcreek Industrial Park	150
	Hinckley Industrial Park	20	Summit	Silver Creek Center	400	Weber	Little Mountain Industrial Area	8000
	Lynndyl Industrial Park	10	Tooele	Tooele City Commerce Park	415		Business Depot Ogden:	1,118
Morgan	Airport Industrial Park	10		Utah Industrial Depot	850		Ogden Commercial & Industrial Park	365
	Morgan City Industrial Park	12	Utah	Aerospace Park	80		Ogden Regional Business Center	1100
Salt Lake	. 9	300+		Alvey	18		Pleasant View	300
	Bingham Industrial Park	250		American Fork Commercial Cente	r 200		Pinebrook Business Park	200
	Bonneville Center	150		Birch Tree	33		Weber County Industrial Park	551

The Utah State University Innovation Campus currently has more than 150 acres of space near the Logan campus, plus 265 acres of research preserve near Millville, Utah. Currently, approximately 50 innovative businesses employ more than 2,000 people in 10 privately-developed buildings. The companies collectively generate more than \$75 million in annual revenue. Additional buildings and projects are currently being developed. During the next 30 years, the site is projected to grow to 4.4 million square feet of research facilities, employing more than 8,000 people. USU has distinguished itself as a Carnegie Foundation Research I Institution.

For more information about the University of Utah Research Park, contact 801-581-8133, or visit www.research.utah.edu/econ. For more information about the Utah State University Innovation Campus, call 435-797-9610, or visit www.usu.edu/innovationcampus.

## INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Utah has more than 100 well-planned, high-quality industrial parks located throughout the state. Lease rates for building space in these industrial parks vary, depending on the location and quality of space. From 2005 to 2006, industrial land prices rose approximately 25 percent in Salt Lake County. In Salt Lake County, industrial land ranges upward to \$5 per square foot (\$217,800 per acre), with prime land commanding somewhat higher prices. Along the remainder of the Wasatch Front-Utah, Davis and Weber counties-the cost of industrial land can vary widely based on accessibility and other factors, with \$3 to \$5 per square foot being typical. There is still some land available within minutes of a freeway connection. Outside the Wasatch Front, approved industrial land prices can vary widely, from \$1.50 per square foot in Tooele County to prices comparable to the Wasatch Front in Washington County and Summit County. Almost all of Utah's counties have at least one developed industrial park.

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES**



For more detailed information on gas rates, contact: Questar Gas Company **Economic Development Department** 1140 West 200 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84104 (801) 324-5111 Fax: (801) 324-5517

UTAH CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES BENEFIT from reasonable and stable prices for electricity, natural gas, telecommunication services and water. In Utah, the Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates the rates and conditions of service for electric power and natural gas provided by investor-owned utilities. In rural areas of the state, PSC regulates the rates for intrastate telecommunications services provided by the local phone companies. In Utah's most densely populated areas, the PSC no longer sets prices for most telecommunications services; prices are determined by market forces. The PSC also regulates water companies in cases in which the customers are not also owners of the company, or the company is not a governmental entity. Most of Utah's water users are served by approved municipal water systems governed by water boards in their respective municipalities. Local governments regulate the state's municipal power and water companies. The Commission is comprised of a chairman and two commissioners appointed by Utah's governor and confirmed by the Senate, each for six-year terms.

## NATURAL GAS

Natural gas prices in Utah are currently among the lowest in the nation, aided by Utah's abundant supply of natural gas which historically has not been transported out of the region. The principal supplier of natural gas in Utah is Questar Gas Company. Close to half of the natural gas currently used by Questar's residential Utah customers is provided at cost-of-service pricing (Questar's price of producing and transporting the gas) instead of market prices, since Utah's residential rate payers have a legal right to purchase this gas at cost of service rates due to their ownership interest in some existing gas fields managed by Questar. The cost to develop and deliver this gas is considerably lower and more stable than the cost of gas purchased from either third-party suppliers or Questar's parent company, Questar Inc. These low-cost sources of natural gas provide a significant advantage to Utah natural gas customers. Depending on a customer's usage, Questar can provide firm or interruptible natural gas sales service, or transportation service.

Prices vary according to the type of service and usage level. Currently, approximately 70 percent of Questar Gas rates are determined by the price of natural gas. In recent years, the natural gas commodity market has become more volatile, causing more variation in customer rates. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that Utah citizens will continue to experience lower average rates than consumers in most other U.S. locations.

The anticipated completion of gas pipelines linking Utah's gas production to other markets is likely to increase the price of natural gas in the state. Utah's residential customers will no longer have moderated market prices for as many of their energy purchases as they have experienced in the past. In addition, Utah's growing population means that the percentage of gas that is purchased at cost-of-service rates is likely to shrink over time. Nevertheless, Utah residential and commercial customers will still enjoy the advantage of cost-of-service pricing for much of the natural gas they purchase.

- Utah's electric power and natural gas rates are among the nation's lowest.
- Utah enjoys state-of-the-art telecommunications systems, including an extensive fiber optic backbone.
- High-quality, low-cost groundwater is readily available statewide.
- Approximately 94 percent of all electrical generation in Utah comes from coal.
- A variety of ad<mark>vanced telecommu</mark>nication services are provided by 124 providers.



### **ELECTRIC**

Industrial electric rates in Utah's major cities compare favorably with those in other U.S. cities. Utah has traditionally been able to escape electricity price spikes that have been common in many West Coast cities. Rocky Mountain Power (a division of PacifiCorp) is the largest electric utility in the state. Fortytwo municipalities in Utah provide electric power to their residents. Rocky Mountain Power anticipates that sales growth in urban regions of Utah will rise by about 3.5 to 5 percent annually for the foreseeable future.

Currently, there are 11 retail providers of electricity certified and regulated by the state's Public Service Commission: nine rural cooperatives, one electric service district and one investor-owned utility. Approximately 94 percent of all electrical generation in Utah comes from coal.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, in 2006 Utah tied for the fourth lowest average industrial electricity in the nation (4.24 cents per kilowatt hour; national average 6.09 cents); had the sixth lowest overall average retail rates (5.99 cents; national average of 8.85 cents); the third lowest commercial price (6.15 cents; national average, 9.36 cents); and the eighth lowest residential average price (7.61 cents; national average, 10.40 cents)



## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

In 2006, a large number of competitors serviced 1.2 million phone lines in Utah, and provided Internet service to residents throughout the state. Under the direction of the Utah Public Service Commission, 109 companies provided service for customers along the Wasatch Front and the Interstate 15 corridor from Logan in the north to St. George in the south. Another 15 independent local exchange companies serviced the state's rural area.

Utah has become a telecommunications hub in the western United States. Telephone service providers in the state process more than two million inbound calls daily.

Qwest (formerly US West) and Comcast have invested more than \$1 billion building Utah telecommunications infrastructure over the past decade. Every wire center in Qwest territory has been equipped with DSL service and integrated services digital networks (ISDNs). Qwest has also developed a fiber optic line running from Logan to St. George, which connects into Qwest's larger national network.

Comcast has also invested in building telecommunication infrastructure to serve commercial and residential customers in the state. Comcast's transcontinental fiber cable enters Salt Lake City via Parleys Canyon and terminates in a switching center downtown, before branching off to Seattle and San Francisco

The Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA) is one of the world's largest and most innovative public telecommunications projects. UTOPIA is a consortium of 14 Utah cities spread from Tremonton to Cedar City engaged in deploying and operating a 100-percent, ultra-broadband 100 Mbps residential connection fiber optic network to provide data, video and telephone services to every business and household within its footprint, serving approximately 450,000 Utah citizens. There are currently four providers offering broadband services on the UTOPIA network: AT&T, MStar, Nuvont and Xmission.

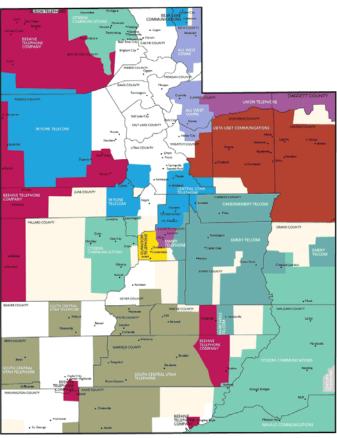
Other major telecommunications providers in the state include XO Utah, McLeod, Sprint, MCI and Electric Lightwave. Approximately 100 telecom providers have been certified by the state's Public Service Commission to provide local exchange and other services.

Utah has also been a pioneer in telecommunications services for the deaf. One local Utah company, Sorenson Communications, has become the nation's leading provider of video relay services (VRS) for the deaf and hardof-hearing, offering seminal videophone technology and running 48 VRS call centers throughout the country to help connect deaf individuals with other hearing and deaf people through American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. The Utah Legislature and Public Service Commission have supported telecom services for the deaf through programs designed to increase the number of qualified ASL interpreters and a variety of tax-supported technical and outreach programs.

Utah rural phone companies have been proactive in providing advanced technology services to the more rural areas they serve. Fiber Optics, DSL and other leading technologies are available to businesses, residents, schools and libraries in most rural communities throughout the state.

For more information about Utah's telecommunications industry and providers, visit the Public Services Commission Website at www.psc.utah.gov.

## **TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES BY AREA**



## All West Communications Beehive Telephone Company Central Utah Telephone, Bear Lake Communications, Skyline Telecom Citizens Communications Emery Telcom, Carbon/Emery Telcom, Hanksville Telcom Gunnison Telephone Company Manti Telephone Company South Central Utah Telephone Association UBTA, UBET Communications Union Telephone Company Albion Telephone Company, Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Open Qwest

## **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

One of Utah's most valuable natural resources is the high-quality groundwater available throughout most of the state. Virtually all of Utah's municipal waterworks systems have access to springs and wells. Although Utah is located in an arid region, the mountain watershed areas, which feed the state's natural and man-made storage systems, receive up to 60 inches of precipitation annually. The yield from the Utah watershed, combined with yield from rivers flowing throughout the state, supply water to meet the needs of an expanding population and economy. Utah's water is supplied to users by a number of improvement districts, water districts and local communities—most of which are not controlled by the Public Service Commission.



## **QUALITY OF LIFE**



UTAH IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE to visit and an extraordinary place to live. The state captivates visitors and residents alike with its spectacular natural beauty, cultural offerings and year-round recreational opportunities. In some seasons in Utah, it is possible to ski, golf, snowmobile and water-ski on the same day. In addition to its extraordinary scenery, recreation and culture, Utah is safe, clean and affordable, creating exceptional quality of life for the state's residents.

## **CLIMATE AND WEATHER**

Like the state's topography, Utah's four-season climate is invigorating and diverse. The state's elevation ranges from a low of 2,200 feet in southwestern Washington County to more than 13,500 feet in the Uinta Mountains in the northeastern corner of the state. The average maximum daytime temperature in Utah's leading metropolitan areas ranges from an average of about 37 degrees (36 degrees in Salt Lake City; 32 in Park City; 53 in St. George) in January to 93 degrees in July (92 degrees in Salt Lake City; 82 in Park City; 102 in St. George).

Utah's climate features low humidity and plentiful sunshine. In Salt Lake County and many other areas in the state, the summer daytime relative humidity averages less than 30 percent, and sunny skies prevail for an average of 237 days per year. The air quality in the vicinity of Capitol Reef National Park is the best among the lower 48 states.

Annual precipitation varies from less than five inches in Utah's arid Great Salt Lake Desert to more than 60 inches in the northern mountain ranges. In the state's most densely populated counties—Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber—precipitation averages six inches per year. Snow accumulates to depths of 10 feet or more at some Wasatch Mountain ski resorts; at some locations, the season-long snow total may exceed 50 feet.

The ethereal dry powder snow along the Wasatch Front has earned Utah the moniker, "The Greatest Snow on Earth™."

- The dry, powdery snow found at Utah's 13 alpine ski resorts is widely considered to be "the greatest snow on earth."
- Utah's cost of living is well below national levels, according to most indicators.
- Residents of the state have access to excellent health and medical treatment facilities.
- Utah offers a wealth of world-class outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Utah welcomed more than 18.2 million visitors in 2005.
- Southern Utah has the nation's greatest concentration of national parks: Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capital Reef and Zion.
- Utah arts enthusiasts enjoy a unique mix of exceptional performing arts experiences.
- Utah sports fans support a variety of professional teams, including The Jazz (basketball), Real Salt Lake (soccer), The Grizzlies (ice hockey), The Blaze (Arena Football) and The Bees (baseball).

## **ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX, 1st Quarter, 2007**

	100%	13%	29%	10%	9%	4%	35%
City	Composite Index	Grocery Items	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Misc. Goods & Services
Cedar City, UT	93.5	100.5	89.3	85.7	99.7	84.7	95.7
St. George, UT	101.9	99.8	110.1	82.7	105.3	87.4	102.2
Salt Lake City, UT	100.4	103.5	97.8	89.0	104.8	99.8	103.3
San Francisco, CA	172.1	148.7	273.2	88.6	131.8	126.2	140.4
Phoenix, AZ	101.7	98.0	103.4	94.1	105.2	100.0	102.8
Los Angeles, CA	145.2	112.0	253.1	78.7	113.6	103.9	103.9
San Jose, CA	156.8	141.5	260.3	101.6	117.4	123.9	110.5
Denver, CO	102.3	99.5	110.4	110.2	90.0	109.5	97.4
Portland, OR	121.7	122.3	133.3	104.8	125.0	110.3	117.5
Las Vegas, NV	109.0	96.4	129.6	110.4	112.7	107.5	95.8

## INDICATORS OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Utah's ongoing population growth is being driven by a dynamic, rapidly growing economy, coupled with a relatively low cost of living. According to the 2007 Economic Report to the Governor, the state's job growth rate for 2006 was 5.2 percent, second in the U.S. The average household income of \$54,813 (measured by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2003-2005) is the 10th highest in the U.S. The national average is \$46,326.

Other quality of life indicators were also favorable for the state's residents. Utah residents are favored with one of the lowest violent crime rates in the U.S. According to the 2005 Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Rate Reports, Utah's violent crime rate of 227.2 per 100,000 people (down 2.6 percent from 2005) is the sixth lowest in the nation and far below the national average of 469.2 per 100,000 people (up 1.3 percent from 2005). Utah's poverty rate of 9.2 percent in 2005 was the lowest in the Mountain West, and tied for sixth lowest in the nation.

Attractive Utah communities are also affordable. According to the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association/Council for Community and Economic Research (ACCRA) first guarter 2007 statistics, Salt Lake City's overall cost of living (100.4 percent of the national average) is less than that of other major metropolitan areas in western states, including Denver (102.3), Las Vegas (109.0), Portland (121.7) or Phoenix (101.7), and dramatically less expensive than New York (214.7), San Francisco (172.1) or San Jose (156.8). Residents of appealing Utah university towns such as Logan (92.7 in Q2 2006) and Cedar City (94.9) enjoy a cost of living significantly lower than the national average.

Utah's dynamic economy is driving considerable demand for homes in the communities throughout the state. According to Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight house appreciation records, Utah home price appreciation ranked first in the nation, increasing 17.6 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005 to the fourth quarter of 2006. The average home in Salt Lake City was 219,170, up 19.9 percent; Provo, \$195,040, up 19.7 percent; St. George, \$232,440, up 12.3 percent; and Logan, \$146,940, up 7.3 percent. Despite the housing appreciation, the average Utah home price of \$196,010 is well below the national average of \$225,570. (www.economy.com)

Utah's relatively low cost of living has contributed to the high level of home ownership of its citizens: 73.9 percent, 11th among U.S. states and second in the Mountain West region, according to 2005 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Utah's population has the fourth-longest life expectancy in the nation. The health of the state's residents is further improved by the high-quality medical care available throughout Utah. Some 50 hospitals contain more than 4,800 staffed beds. Major medical facilities are concentrated in the Wasatch Front region, with 19 hospitals in Salt Lake County, four in Utah County, four in Davis County and two in Weber County.

The state's residents also enjoy unusually strong health. According to the United Health Foundation State Health Rankings. Utah was the sixth healthiest state in the U.S. for 2006, and also ranked sixth in the nation in overall indicators of child well being. According to the National Cancer Society's 2006 rankings, Utah had the lowest rate of cancer deaths in the country. Utahns enjoy the third highest life expectancy in the nation, at 78.6 years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The University of Utah Health Sciences Center is nationally-known for its patient care and teaching facilities. The Center includes the University Hospital, the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing. In addition, a variety of Intermountain Healthcare facilities. St. Mark's Hospital and other Utah health care providers have garnered national and global recognition.

Utah's research facilities, such as the Huntsman Cancer Institute, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Moran Eye Institute and Primary Children's Medical Center, are internationally recognized for innovative research and health care.

## **UTAH BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Utah's health care industry is buttressed by the state's position as a leading center for biotechnology research and industry. The University of Utah has identified more disease-related genes than any other university in the world. Utah is home to superior research through the world's largest family history database, along with clinical data regarding cancer and other health challenges in families.

Utah's research universities and companies such as Myriad Genetics, Merit Medical, Sonic Innovations and ZARS Pharma are pioneering groundbreaking research in life sciences and medical devices. In addition, innovations in proteomics, targeted drug therapies and drug delivery systems, and other advanced technologies will continue to keep Utah on the forefront of biotechnology.

For more information on Utah's life sciences industry, as well as the state's other leading economic clusters, visit goed.utah.gov/initiatives/clusters/utah.html.

## **VIOLENT CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES**

	2005 RATE PER	RANK	INCREASE
	100,000	IN	DECREASI
	INHABITANTS	NATION	04-0
UTAH	227.2	45	-2.6%
USA*	469		+1.39
Source: FBI Uniform	Crime Reports 2005		
Source: HBI Uniform	Crime Reports 2005		
Source: HBI Uniform	Crime Reports 2005		
Source: FBI Uniform	Crime Reports 2005		

## **OLYMPIC LEGACY**

From February 8-24, 2002, Salt Lake City hosted the XIX Olympic Winter Games. Along with more than 2,000 athletes from 85 nations, nearly 3.5 billion people from around the world witnessed the Games on television. In addition, the VIII Paralympics Winter Games were hosted from March 7-16, 2002. More than 1,100 athletes and officials participated.

Eleven venues were selected to house the Olympics' athletic events, including a newly-built, state-of-the-art skating rink and the world's fastest luge track. All of the Olympic venues are open to the public, allowing visitors to experience the sites firsthand and share in history. Visit www.utah.com/olympics for more information.

## WINTER RECREATION

Utah's 13 downhill and six cross-country ski resorts provide some of the world's finest skiing and snowboarding. Low humidity and low mountain temperatures result in the dry powder snow for which Utah has become famous. The state's heavy snowfall (up to 500 inches at some resorts) often extends the Utah ski season from mid-November through early May. The state's ski areas set a new record in the 2005-6 season, with more than four million skier visits on Utah slopes. For more information, visit www.skiutah.com.

There are also plenty of opportunities for snowshoeing, ice climbing and snowmobiling on 850 miles of groomed trails running through fascinating and spectacular topography that ranges from rugged mountains to redrock.

## **SUMMER RECREATION**

Utah's outdoors offer enough activities to fill many lifetimes of summer recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, fishing, hunting and countless other activities in some of the most varied and spectacular scenery anywhere. The state is also a global destination for water sports enthusiasts seeking adventure in whitewater rafting, kayaking, boating, jet skiing and scuba diving.

## **CYCLING**

Utah's mountains and redrock deserts are a mecca for mountain bikers and touring cyclists of all ages and abilities. Moab is one of the leading U.S. cycling hubs, and most of Utah's ski resorts offer bike rentals as well as numerous mountain trails. For more information, contact Bicycle Utah at 801-649-5806, or visit bicycleutah.com.

## **UTAH TRAILWAYS**

Seven of Utah's most popular trail systems are being expanded and united to form the Utah trailways, totaling more than 938 miles. Most trails are located close to the state's primary population centers, providing quick access to walking, biking, hiking, horseback riding and off-roading in the midst of varied and spectacular scenery.

For more information about Utah's trailways, visit www.utahtrails.com or www.utah.gov/visiting/stateparks.html.



## **OLYMPIC VENUES**

## NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS AND RECREATION AREAS

Southern Utah contains the greatest concentration of national parks in the U.S. The state's five national parks—Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Zion—are regularly recognized as among the most beloved national parks by visitors in the United States and from around the globe. In addition, Utah's seven national monuments, two national recreation areas, one national historic site and many state parks and recreation areas provide outdoor enthusiasts with unique and varied opportunities. The state's national parks welcomed 5.3 million visitors: 2.58 million at Zion, one million-plus at Bryce Canyon, 780,000-plus at Arches, 540,000-plus at Capital Reef and 392,000-plus at Canyonlands. Utah's state park system attracted approximately 4.36 million visitors.

For more information, contact the Utah Office of Tourism (801) 538-1900 or visit travel.utah.gov.

## **ARTS AND CULTURE**

Utah boasts rich artistic and cultural resources. The Utah Arts Council, founded in 1899, represents almost 200 theatres, more than 100 dance and approximately 500 music organizations, including The Utah Symphony, Ballet West and the Utah Opera Company.

Utah is also home to a number of distinguished festivals and other cultural organizations and events throughout the state, including the internationally renowned Sundance Film Festival, the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. For more information on Utah's cultural offering, visit arts.utah.gov or www.utah.com/arts.

## **Utah Olympic Oval**

5662 South 4800 West (Cougar Lane) Kearns, Utah (801) 968-OVAL (6825) Speed Skating

## Salt Lake Ice Center/ **Delta Center**

301 W. South Temple Salt Lake City, Utah www.deltacenter.com Figure Skating, Short Track Skating

### E Center

3200 S. Decker Lake Dr. West Valley City, Utah Ice Hockey

## The Peaks Ice Arena

100 No. Seven Peaks Blvd. Provo, Utah Ice Hockey

## Ice Sheet at Odden

4390 Harrison Blvd. Ogden, Utah Curling

## Park City Mountain Resort

1310 Lowell Avenue Park City, Utah Giant Slalom, Snowboarding Parallel and Halfpipe

## **Deer Valley Mountain Resort**

2250 Deer Valley Drive Park City, Utah Slalom, Freestyle Aerials and Freestyle Moguls

## **Utah Olympic Park**

Olympic Parkway and Highway 224 at Kimball Junction Park City (435) 658-4200 Bobsleigh, Luge, Skeleton, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined

## Soldier Hollow (Wasatch State Park)

2002 Soldier Hollow Drive near Midway (435) 654-2002 Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing

## Snowbasin Ski Resort

Highway 167 (Trapper's Loop) (801) 399-0304 Downhill, Super G. Combined Downhill/Slalom

## Rice Eccles Olympic Stadium

University of Utah Campus Salt Lake City Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Home of Olympic Cauldron

## Olympic Village

University of Utah Campus Salt Lake City Athlete Village

## **TOURISM**

The Utah Office of Tourism brands and promotes Utah's great experiences for visitors and citizens in a way that enhances our quality of life. More visitors are coming to Utah than ever before, since the Governor's Office of Economic Development's Utah Office of Tourism launched its new "Life Elevated" brand in April of 2006. Last year, more than 19 million visitors were attracted to Utah's five national parks, more than 40 state parks, recreation sites, and other major attractions. The Huntsman administration is committed to enhancing Utah's national and international image and promoting the state as a year-round destination. Utah lawmakers have appropriated \$11 million dollars for the next fiscal year for out-of-state advertising; the same level of funding the tourism office has received for the past couple of years to brand Utah. The 2006 Summer Marketing campaign included television, print and online advertising in Denver, Las Vegas , and Los Angeles. The 2006/07 Winter campaign focused on the Los Angeles and New York markets, and a national cable buy generated a record number of phone calls to the agency's live Call Center and e-mail inquiries.



- 5.2 million recreation visits were made to Utah's five national parks during 2006
- County Transient Room Tax Revenue for FY 2006-07 was 428,007,488, an increase of 24.3 percent compared with FY 2005-06.
- Another 4.7 million recreation visits occurred at Utah's seven national monuments, two national recreation areas and one national historic site.
- 4.5 million visitors enjoyed Utah's 42 state parks during 2006.
- 23 million vehicles crossed Utah's borders along Interstate highways in 2006.
- 21.6 million passengers arrived at Salt Lake International Airport during the year.
- Utah's ski and snowboard industry notched its fourth consecutive record-breaking season with 13 ski resorts hosting nearly 4.1 million skier days during the 2006/07 season.
- 581,154 visitors stopped at one of Utah's six Welcome Centers during 2006.

## WHAT'S THE BUSINESS CLIMATE LIKE IN UTAH?



**C'EST MAGNIFIQUE!** 

STARTING IN 2008, BUSINESS TRAVELERS AND TOURISTS ALIKE CAN ENJOY NON-STOP SERVICE BETWEEN SALT LAKE CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PARIS.

Ask any economic development expert from around the country and they'll tell you Utah's economy is booming. With the low cost of doing business, a young educated workforce, and an amazing quality of life, it's no wonder businesses in Utah are taking the country by storm. And now the fastest growing economy in the United States will soon be going international, thanks to Delta's new direct flight to Paris. To learn more about why so many growing companies are flocking to Utah, visit www.relocate2saltlake.com or call 1-801-328-8824.

















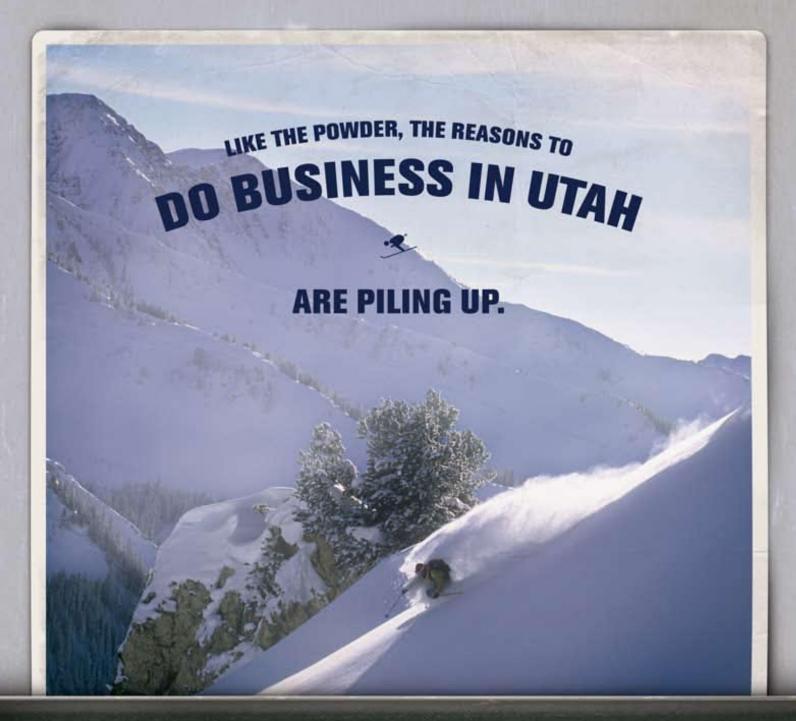
2484 Washington Blvd., Ste. 400 Ogden, UT 84401

## For More Information:

Weber County Economic Development Corp.

The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development 324 South State Street, Suite 500 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 (801) 538-8700 www.goed.utah.gov





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Utah #1

"Most Dynamic Economy in the Nation" Kauffman 2007 State New Economy Index

Utah #3

"Best state for business" CNBC, July 2007

Salt Lake City, Utah #10 Top 20 Large Cities Boomtowns '07 Inc., May 2007

St. George, Utah

\*1 Top 20 Small Cities Boomtown '07 Inc., May 2007

Utah #4

"Best State for Business" Forbes Magazine August 2006

Ogden/Clearfield, Utah \*16 Top 20 Midsize Cities Boomtown '07 Inc., May 2007

Utah #1

"Best managed state" USA Today, July 2007

Utah #5

"Top Ten Pro-Business States" Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States 2007



Governor's Office of **Economic Development** 



## **Utah:** We've scoured all 84,904 square miles so you don't have to.

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